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UNIFORM LABELS
for Consumer Grades of Eggs

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Miscellaneous Publication No. 560

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services

UNIFORM LABELS
for Consumer Grades of Eggs

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Office of Marketing Services, War Food Administration

Uniform grade labels for eggs packaged in cartons for sale to consumers at retail levels are desirable in order to develop more widespread recognition and understanding of grade values for quality eggs.

The use of a distinctive, uniform label for each grade of eggs packaged in cartons as federally graded or Federal-State graded for size and quality can favorably influence consumer demand for this type of food product. It can also lead to a better and readier understanding of grade differences based upon consumer use of eggs of easily identified grade quality.

Grade-label requirements have been developed to accomplish these ends. They are based upon a careful analysis of the problems involved in the actual mechanical process of packaging eggs in cartons, and in the use of several types of cartons, including full-dozen and divisible half-dozen packages.

In developing these labeling standards, design and color scheme, as well as practical considerations in the actual use of the labels, have been discussed with members of the egg-marketing industry who are using the schedule entitled "Tentative U. S. Standards and Weight Classes for Consumer Grades of Shell Eggs" under Federal-State or Federal supervision. The specifications as finally developed are the majority opinion of these representatives of the trade as well as supervisors of grading services in the various States and in Washington, D. C.

Uniform Color Recommendations

The colors for labels on which the grade of eggs is specified should preferably be as follows for each of the consumer grades:

Grade	*Color of background*	*Printing and shield outline*
AA	Gold	Purple or black
A	Blue	White or black
B	Red	White or black
C	Green	Black or white

Label Recommendations

Size and shape

It is recommended that the label to be used for federally graded or Federal-State graded eggs should be made in the form of a shield as shown in figure 1. The label, when used for the purpose of sealing the cartons by hand, should be 2⅜ by 2¾ inches, with the borders of the shield extending to the edge of the label.

On divisible cartons, the smaller double label, as shown in figure 2, should be used for the purpose of sealing them by hand and should be applied to the middle part of the carton, so that one label is attached to each half of the carton. The size of this double label should be 3 by 2¾ inches.

In the event that it is desired to print the certificate of quality or grade label on the carton, the imprint should be identical in size and shape with that shown in figure 3. Desirable color combinations are listed on page 2. The wording on this label is changed to indicate that the date of grading and the certificate number are shown on a smaller label which must be used for sealing purposes. Such a sealing label should be 1¼ by 2 inches, with the same shield form as that printed on the carton. The shield outline should extend to the margin of the label. This small sealing label is shown in figure 4. When divisible cartons are sealed with an automatic sealing machine, the label shown as figure 5 should be used.

The small sealing label just referred to is impracticable for use with an automatic sealing machine when divisible cartons on which the certificate of quality or grade label is printed are used. A substitute plain sealing tape, 1¼ inches wide and 2 inches high, with a center perforation, is suggested, as shown in figure 5.

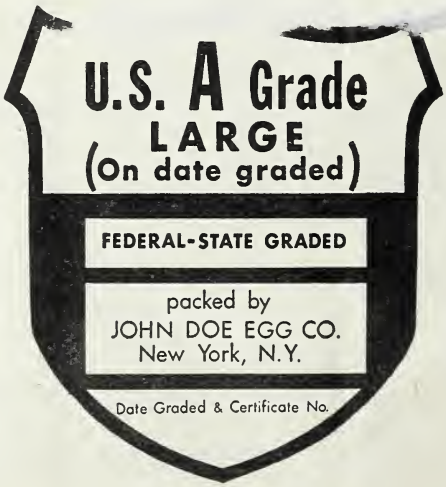

Figure 1.—Label (hand applied) for sealing nondivisible carton.

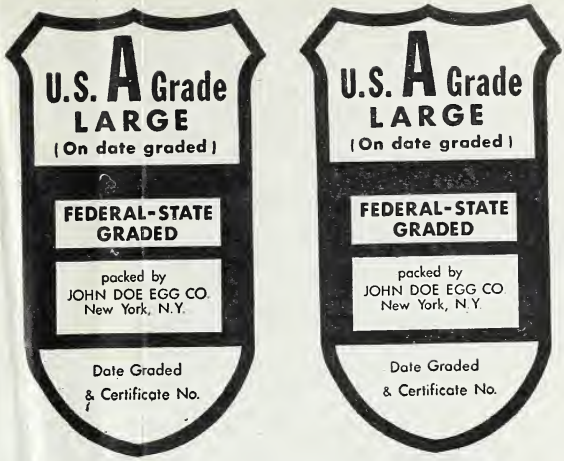

Figure 2.—Label (hand applied) for sealing divisible carton.

The small labels, used for sealing cartons on which certificates of quality or grade labels are already printed, may be of any color; however, the use of a white label with black lettering is strongly recommended.

Printing Specifications

Size and prominence of grade and size designations

To insure proper prominence of grade and size designations, the grade name (AA or A, etc.) and size (Large, Medium, etc.) shall be printed in letters ⅜ inch in height. This information must appear at the top of the label, as shown in figures 1 and 3.

Other wording

The words "on date graded" must appear in clearly legible type in a size closely approximating that used in the illustrations and be placed immediately under the statement of grade and size.

Immediately following these statements must appear the words "Federal Graded" or "Federal-State Graded," whichever is applicable.

For the illustrations in this publication, the words "Federal-State Graded" were chosen in the interest of clarity and simplicity; however, in actual use in various States the optional wording "Officially Graded by U. S. and ..... Department of Agriculture" may be substituted
(State)
for the words "Federal-State Graded."

The remaining or lower portion of the label should be used to identify the packer or distributor. The name of the company or individual should follow the words "Packed by" or "Distributed by," whichever is applicable. If the name and address of the packer or distributor are clearly

shown on the top or the front side of the carton, this information need not be shown on the label or certificate of quality unless the packer or distributor so desires.

Sufficient space must be available at the bottom of the label on which to stamp the date of grading and the certificate number. The captions, "Date of Grading" and "Certificate Number," should be printed directly above the place to be used for stamping this information on the label, so that the meaning of the information to be supplied (date and number) will be clear.

Sealing label for automatic sealing machines

The small stickers or sealing labels to be applied with an automatic sealing machine on those cartons that have the certificate of quality or grade label printed on them must have on them the printed words "Federal Graded" or "Federal-State Graded," whichever apply, along with the words "Date Graded" and "Certificate Number." On cartons that move through an automatic sealing machine, a plain white sealing tape may be used, provided the date of grading the eggs and the certificate number are stamped thereon.

A printer's proof or a sketch of the labels must be submitted by any user of Federal grading or Federal-State grading services to the Chief, Inspection and Grading Division, Dairy and Poultry Branch, Office of Marketing Services, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C. All labels and certificates must have the approval of the Chief of the Inspection and Grading Division prior to their use.

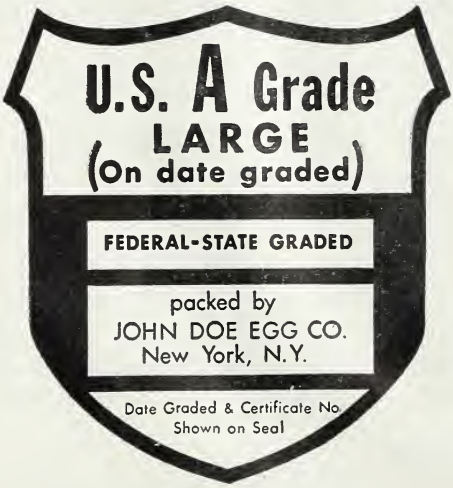

Figure 3.—Label printed on divisible or nondivisible carton.

Figure 4.—Seal (hand applied) for use when label is printed on nondivisible carton.

Limitations in Use of Grade Labels

The use of grade labels is limited to those eggs that have been graded by an official grader holding a limited license and operating under the supervision of an official grader, or to those eggs that have been candled and graded by an official grader, according to the Tentative U. S. Standards and Weight Classes for Consumer Grades of Shell Eggs.

Not more than 3 days may elapse between the time of official grading and the labeling of shell eggs so graded. Graded eggs that are not properly labeled within this period must be regraded and then labeled according to the grade determined at the latest grading.

Use of official grade labels is limited to those individuals, firms, or corporations to whom specific authority has been granted. Such authority may be obtained by written application to the Chief, Inspection and Grading Division, or his duly authorized representative. This privilege may be withdrawn by the Chief of the Inspection and Grading Division for improper, unethical, deceptive, fraudulent, illegal, or unauthorized use.

The custody of the official grade labels used by any individual, firm, or corporation must of necessity remain with the person officially responsible for the actual grading work in any given packing or distributing plant.

Use of a facsimile form which simulates the uniform grade labels in whole or in part for the purpose of evidencing a U. S. grade of a product which has not been officially graded or of advertising the product as Federal or Federal-State graded is prohibited. Misuse of such a facsimile form, in any manner or for any purpose, will be deemed sufficient cause for debarring the party or parties so acting from any future benefits to be derived from the Federal inspection and grading service, if following a hearing the alleged misuse is established.

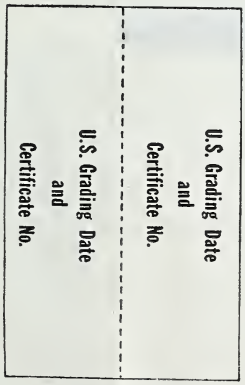

Figure 5.—Seal for use with automatic sealing machine when label is printed on divisible carton.

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